[Mr. M. Govinda Pillai.]

But before actually launching on such an undertaking, they would be glad to know the sense of the House in the matter; and with a view to bring the subject within the scope of the deliberations of the House, a token grant of Rs. 10,000 is included in the Budget. There is also provision in the Industries Budget for the proper administration of the recently enacted Labour Laws *viz.*, the Factories Act, the Workmen's Compensation Act, Trade Unions Act and the Trade Disputes Act.

23. *Co-operative Department and Uplift of Backward Communities.* Besides the allotment for the grant of the usual subsidies to non-Governmental Co-operative Organisations like the Supervising Unions and Co-operative Conferences, an enhanced provision has been made for ameliorative measures to help the backward communities.

24. It has always been the avowed policy of Government to render all possible help to the backward communities in their struggle for advancement in diverse directions, social economic and material. Free registry of lands, educational concessions, grants to Harijan hostels, promotion of cottage industries, construction of dwelling houses in selected areas; these are but a few of the various activities which Government have undertaken in pursuance of their programme of ameliorative measures for the uplift of backward classes. A Harijan Colony has been established in Kurichi with accommodation for 40 families. Harijan hostels are liberally subsidised by Government. About 40 Harijans are being fed and accommodated in the Sri Chitra Hostel, 25 Harijan girls in the Mahilamandiram are being supported by Government at a cost of Rs 4 per pupil. About Rs 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 are being spent for the free supply of text books to Harijan pupils in the 3rd and 4th classes in primary schools. The total expenditure, direct and indirect, on these communities is estimated at Rs 2 lakhs.

25. *Medical and Public Health.* The House will, I believe, be interested to note that in order to obviate the difficulties and inconveniences arising from the lack of trained male nurses in the Hospitals of the State, the opening of a special class for the training of male nurses has been arranged for. Provision has also been made for the usual improvements to and additional staff for the medical institutions of the State. In particular, I would like to inform the House, that the premier medical institution of the State, the General Hospital at Trivandrum, has been well equipped for Radium treatment of cancer under an officer specially trained in the work, an arrangement which exists only in very few hospitals in South India.

The frequent occurrence of Malaria in an almost epidemic form in some parts of the country has, of late, been a menace to public health and consequently a source of great anxiety to the Government. One of the District Health Officers of the State, was therefore deputed for practical training in Malariology in the various malarial centres of the Empire including Ceylon. He has returned and will formulate

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definite proposals for organising measures for controlling and combating the disease. A small provision has been made for this purpose, as a first instalment.

26. *Public Works.* The allotment for ordinary Public Works expenditure for the next year is Rs 33·27 lakhs as against Rs 32·57 lakhs for the current year. This grant is exclusive of the works provided for in the Capital Section of the budget and those proposed to be met out of the Road Development Fund.

In view of the frequent droughts and the inadequacy of the Kodayar Reservoir Supply, the irrigation needs of the State especially those of South Travancore are engaging the attention of Government. A provision of Rs. 25 of a lakh has been made in the next year's budget for immediate improvements to the irrigation tanks and their restoration. Provision has also been included for the investigation of an irrigation scheme to augment the supply from the Kodayar Reservoir. A sum of Rs 17,500 has been provided for the supply of drinking water from wells in places where it is absolutely necessary especially in South Travancore and Shencotta. As an annual expenditure of Rs 1,000 is being now incurred for the supply of water to the Muttam Village, a permanent scheme costing Rs 32,000 is proposed to be taken up and a provision of Rs 25,000 has been made for the purpose in the Capital Section of the budget.

The Main Southern Road. It is proposed to provide dustless surfacing for this road from Trivandrum to Cape Comorin with cement concrete for the portion from Trivandrum to Thamaraculam Junction and tarcrete from thence to Cape Comorin. The whole work including stone metal berms 4 inches on either side of the special surfacing is estimated to cost Rs 14·76 lakhs. A lump sum provision of Rs 7 lakhs has been made for the purpose under capital expenditure.

27. *Road Development Fund.* The Government of India have instituted the Road Development Fund with a view to subsidise States and Provinces in their undertaking of works of improvement and development of the means of communication. An Excise duty of 2½ annas per gallon is levied on petrol produced in British India and a similar duty is levied as countervailing duty on all petrol imported into British India from foreign countries including Burma. Out of the net receipts on this account a sum not exceeding 15 per cent. is kept by the Government of India as Special Reserve and out of this Reserve Fund, the Government of India have allowed the Travancore Government a special grant amounting to half the estimated cost of construction of the Alwaye Bridge. The balance is distributed on the basis of consumption of petrol and our share on this account during 1937-38 amounted to Rs 2,30,345. Our share of the petrol duty so far as it related to imports at the port of Cochin having been included in the share of the customs receipts paid to us under the Cochin Harbour Agreement, a sum of Rs 1,53,087 has been deducted and the balance of Rs 77,258 was paid to this Government.

The contributions received are not appropriated for ordinary revenue expenditure, but credited to a separate fund and utilised on the improvements of our main trunk roads.

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